63

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-third Annual Session

OF THE

Pearl River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Cedar Grove Baptist Church,

Marion County, Miss.,

Commencing Saturday, September 9, A. D. 1882.

Officers:

R. R. TURNAGE.....Moderator.
H. M. FORTENBERRY.....Treasurer.
W. J. ARMSTRONG.....Clerk.

CLINTON, MISS.:
BAPTIST RECORD BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
1882.

R.
I.
W.

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-third Annual Session

OF THE

Pearl River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Cedar Grove Baptist Church,

Marion County, Miss.,

Commencing Saturday, September 9, A. D. 1882.

Officers:

R. R. TURNAGE.....MODERATOR.
I. M. FORTENBERRY.....TREASURER.
W. J. ARMSTRONG.....CLERK.

CLINTON, MISS.:
BAPTIST RECORD, BOOK AND JOB PRINT,
1882.

MINUTES

OF THE

Pearl River Baptist Association.

THE PEARL RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met in its Sixty-third annual session, with the Cedar Grove Church, Marion connty, Mississippi.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder B. A. Crawford, from Matthew xxviii chapter and 19th and 20th verses:

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;

"Teaching them to observe all thing whatsoever I have command you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

After an intermision, the delegates convened in the house, sung a hymn, and prayer was offered by Elder J. B. Gambrell.

The Association was called to order by Elder R. R. Turnage, the former Moderator.

Brethren C. R. Dale and U. L. Boman were appointed reading Clerks.

The former Treasurer being absent, on motion, Bro. Simon Ross was appointed Treasurer, *pro tem.*

Brethren J. J. Thornhill and E. L. Reeves were appointed a Committe on Finance.

The letters from the churches were read, and the names of the delegates were enrolled and the state of the churches entered on the minutes.

Elders Thomas Price and W. J. Fortenbery were appointed to preach at the stand in the afternoon.

The Association then proceeded to ballot for officers. Brethren J. W. Cox and William Clark, acting as tellers. Elder R. R. Turnage was chosen Moderator; I. M. Fortenberry, Treasurer, and W. J. Armstrong, Clerk.

Visiting ministers present were invited to seats in the Association.

Received correspondence as follows:

From Fair River Association—A letter and minute, by her Messenger, C. R. Dale.

From Strong River Association—A letter and minute by her Messengers, R. Drummond, A. H. Dale and Richmond Walker.

From West Peal River—A letter and minute, by her Messenger, J. E. Bilbro.

From Boguechitto—A package of minutes, by her Messenger, S. C. Walker.

From Magee's Creek—A letter and package of minutes, by her Messenger, W. J. Fortenberry.

From Hobolochitto—A letter and package of minutes, by her Messengers, J. I. Hill and Thos. Price.

From Baptist State Convention—Elders T. J. Walne and J. B. Gambrell.

Arranged correspondence as follows:

To the Boguechitto—Elders J. L. Chandler and B. A. Crawford as our Messengers; Elder B. A. Crawford to write.

To the Ebenezer—A. S. Harper as our Messenger; A. S. Harper to write.

To the Fair River—A. S. Harper, R. R. Turnage, A. W. Maxwell, B. A. Crawford and W. J. Armstrong as our Messengers; W. L. Boman to write.

To the West Pearl River—Bro. J. E. Bilbro as our Messenger; E. L. Reeves to write.

To the Hobolochitto—S. C. Dale and T. D. Bush as our Messengers; J. J. Thornhill to write.

To the Mississippi—Elder B. A. Crawford as our Messenger; Wade Polk to write.

Baptist State Convention—Elders R. R. Turnage, T. D. Bush, J. L. Chandler, B. A. Crawford, and brethren W. J. Armstrong, Wm. Waller, G. W. Mikell, Wade Polk, Wm. Clark, F. S. Bass, A. W. Maxwell and W. L. Boman.

To the Strong River—Wade Polk, J. W. Cox, T. D. Bush, Moses Stringer, S. C. Dale and W. J. Armstrong; Elder T. D. Bush to write.

To the Magee's Creek—Elder R. R. Turnage and brethren Jesse Davis and J. M. Turnage; Bro. G. W. Mikell to write.

Committes were appointed as follows:

On Preaching—Brethren Jesse C. Davis, Wm. Clark, Wm. Waller, and the Deacons of Ebenezer Church.

On Sunday-schools—Elder T. D. Bush and brethren J. M. Turnage and S. C. Walker.

On Temperance—Elder J. B. Gambrell and brethren C. R. Dale and J. J. Thornhill.

On Home and State Missions—Elder T. J. Walne and brethren A. J. Sharp and Wm. Waller.

On Foreign Missions—Elder B. A. Crawford and brethren W. L. Boman and A. W. Maxwell.

On Religious Literature—Elder J. B. Gambrell and brethren J. M. Taylor and W. J. Armstrong.

On Ministerial Education—Elder R. Drummond, N. C. Hathon and Moses Stringer.

On Mississippi College—A. H. Dale, A. Sharp and J. R. Barnes.

On Obituaries—Brethren Moses Stringer, G. W. Mikell and E. L. Reeves.

On Queries—Elders B. A. Crawford, Thomas Price, J. L. Chandler and W. J. Fortenberry.

Leave of absence was granted to brethren Jacob Pope and James Newman.

On motion, it was agreed that we appoint brethren to write our corresponding letters to the bodies with whom we correspond, and that they be read and adopted by this body.

Little Bahala Church requested a letter of dismission from this Association, which, on motion, was granted.

The Committee on Preaching made the following partial report: That they had appointed Elder J. B. Gambrell to preach at 11 o'clock, on Sunday, then one hour's intermission, after which Elder T. D. Bush would preach and close the services. The report was received and adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock a. m. Monday. Prayer by Elder Thos. Price; benediction by the Moderator.

SUNDAY'S EXERCISES.

Preaching at 11 o'clock a. m., by Elder Gambrell, from iii chapter, 14th verse of Epistle of Paul to Titus: "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."

Bro. T. J. Walne closed the services by making an appeal for State Missions, when a collection was taken from the congregation amounting to $19 25 in cash, and $102 50 in pledges.

Then one hour's intermission, after which the congregation re-assembled at the stand, when Bro. T. D. Bush preached and closed the services.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock,
September 11, 1882.

The Association met according to adjournment; prayer by Bro. R. Drummond.

The Moderator announced the Association in order for business.

Leave of absence was granted to the delegates from White Sand Church.

Corresponding letters were read and adopted.

Reports of committees received, discussed and adopted.

REPORT ON PREACHING:

Your Committe on Preaching would submit the following report:

That Elder B. A. Crawford preach at the stand at 11 o'clock a. m., then one hour's intermission; then Elder J. L. Chandler preach and close the services and we have appointed Bro. T.

S. Powell to preach the Introductory sermon at our next session, and Elder R. R. Turnage his alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

W. CLARK, Chairman.

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your committee would submit the following:

We are profoundly impressed with the fact that we live in an age of progress—*civil* and *religious* progress; our energies, as a denomination, are being severely though reasonably taxed in order to meet the demands made upon us. That we may keep pace with the onward march, it behooves us to utilize all the legitimate means at our command. Our people, as a mass, need much information relative to their obligations and responsibilities. That this information may be imparted, we need to become a reading people. In order to secure unity of feeling and harmony of action, we need to be fully acquainted with the various denominational enterprises. That we may thus become united and harmonized, we *earnestly* and *sincerely* recommend as a means to bring this desirable result, the *Baptist Record*, edited and published at Clinton, by Elder J. B. Gambrel, in the interest of Mississippi and Louisiana Baptists. This, our paper, needs only a reading to be appreciated; by it we are brought into sympathy with the great Baptist brotherhood of the State. Through its influence homes are made happier, churches are developed and ministers greatly assisted in their work; we heartily commend the spirit which has hitherto characterized the writings of its editor. The *Record*, so potent for good, should find a place and readers in the homes of our brethren.

That we may know something of the work carried on by our denomination in foreign lands, the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published in Richmond, Va., should be taken and read by the brotherhood of our State.

That our Sunday-schools may be furnished with a thoroughly sound denominational periodical. we would highly recommend *Kind Words*, published at Macon, Georgia. This

paper nearly or quite supplies the place of Sunday-chool libraries.

And for general information in statistics, we recommend the *Baptist Year Book*, issued by the American Baptist Publication Society. That a deeper and a more general interest may be awakened among the brotherhood of the Association in these publications, we would earnestly request the pastors and others within our bounds to engage actively in the circulation of these periodicals among their respective churches and congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. ARMSTRONG, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home or State Missions submit the following:

What is the work of the State Mission Board:

1. It is to send missionaries to preach the Gospel to the destitute, and to organize churches within the territory of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention, which embraces not only the State of Mississippi, but also all of that portion of the State of Louisiana lying east of the Mississippi river. Within this vast territory there is, in many places, very great spiritual destitution; there are whole counties in which there is not a single Baptist church; there are many towns in which the Gospel is seldom, if ever, heard. The Board is sending faithful men to occupy these destitute fields with the preached word.

2. It is also the work of the Board to aid feeble churches at important centres of population in supporting their pastors, by supplementing their salaries. By means of such help, many weak and inefficient churches have become strong, influential churches, and liberal contributors to all our denominational enterprises.

3. To send out missionary colporteurs, furnished with Bibles, Testaments, religious and denominational books and tracts. They go from house to house, from church to church, from Association to Association, talking and praying with the people in their homes; organizing and instructing Sunday-schools, preaching the Gospel and distributing the Word of God and other religious literature.

Every Association in the State ought to have a colporteur laboring wholly within their bounds, or in connection with an adjacent Association. It is the desire and purpose of the Board to largely increase its number of colporteurs so soon as suitable men can be obtained and their support provided for. Would it not be well for this association to have such a missionary? It is also a part of the work of the Board to employ and send out evangelists to aid pastors in protracted meetings, to revive and build up weak and declining churches. Much very valuable work has been done by our evangelists, hundreds of souls have been brought to Christ under their ministry, and many churches ready to die have been revived and made strong and vigorous.

And now, does not these various departments of the work of the Board commend themselves to the confidence, sympathy and support of this association? and will we not give more liberally to this Board during the next associational year than ever before? Within the past eight years the missionaries of the Board have traveled 225,188 miles; preached 11,831 sermons; baptised 1,910 persons; received by letter and restoration 1,365; have constituted 27 churches, and organized one district association and 65 Sunday-schools.

Brethren, let us give the Board our most earnest support.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. WALNE,
WM. WALLER,
A. SHARP,
Committee.

REPORT ON MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

Your committee would submit the following:

We are glad to be able to report that the last session of the college was the most presperous even enjoyed; 239 students were enrolled. This is most encouraging when we consider the exceeding stringency of the times in money matters, and it is proof that not only education, but Christian education is taking a deeper hold on the hearts of the people. There is an edu-

cational revival in the country; the people are coming to see that the best heritage they can leave their children is a good education. Young men are finding out the advantages of culture, and are ready to make any sacrifice to prepare themselves for life-work; many are educating themselves. We hail this spirit with gladness, but we need not only education, but Christian education. Education is power, but without the sanctifying influence of religion it may be put to a bad use. Christians must cultivate the higher education of the land. We can not afford, as Christians and Baptists, to allow others to train the rising generation. We ourselves must put our hand to the work and educate for Christ.

We believe Mississippi College is just entering upon an era of great prosperity and usefulness; it never was so fully prepared to do a grand work. The faculty has been enlarged and strengthened, and improvements are seen on all sides. In accordance with the recommendations of the convention at its last session, Elder Z. T. Leavell, for five years the earnest pastor of the Oxford Church, was appointed Financial Secretary of the college. He will labor in the general interest of education throughout the State, and at the same time collect what is due the college, and in general, look after the financial interest of the institution. We bid him God speed in his great work. In concluson let us say, Mississippi Baptists have a college for which they should be profoundly grateful. It was founded in prayer, and has been nurtured by the consecrated efforts of pious men. It is now a fountain of blessing. It can easily, by the united efforts of the Baptists of Mississippi, be made an unspeakable blessing to our churches and to the world. Let us remember that it is the college of the Baptists of Mississippi. We should give it our sons to educate for their good and for the furtherance of the Gospel. We should give it our prayers that God will lay his hand upon it and use it for his glory. We should give it our money, too, for a college can not be carried on without money, and God will return to us all and much more.

Repectfully submitted,

A. H. DALE, Chairman.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee would submit the following report:

That while an education is considered needful for the success of all secular business, it is no less needful for the minister of the Gospel, and with the advantage in our country of securing an education, there seems to be no excuse why any one who feels called of God to preach the Gospel should remain in ignorance. There is Mississippi College, at Clinton, Mississippi, with a faculty of efficient instructors, where all such should go whose means and circumstances will allow them to avail themselves of its advantages. There are, also, some good high schools in the country where others may be instructed. Still, others whose means and circumstances will not give to them these advantages may provide themselves with good books, and at home, around the fireside may, by the grace of God, prepare themselves to be efficient workmen for the Lord. We recommend that any young man giving evidence of a call to the ministry receive all the aid and encouarement from the churches he may need. Also, that the pastors of the different churches be requested to bring this matter before their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted,
R. DRUMMOND, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance would submit the following:

Since we have had report after report upon this subject, we deem it useless to undertake to define the word temperance, but presume we are all familliar as to its meaning, and since the monster evil continues to make its fatal inroads upon us, and that too, right in the face, so to speak, of these already adopted reports, we are at a loss to know what to say or how to get up the report. We feel, brethren, that we can assure you of one fact, and that is, the time has come when discussions and the adoption of reports alone will not suffice. The crisis is actually upon us and will evidently crush us unless we become equally as bold and active in our opposition to its progress; and since

the laws of the Bible admit of no compromise, we have either got to act or be content to live under its damning influences for time immemorial.

Respectfully submitted,

C. R. DALE, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee would respectfully submit the following:

The subject of Foreign Missions has been before this body for some years, and while we rejoice that something is being done in that direction we should be ashamed that so little has been done. Dear brethren, our Savior said, "If you love me keep my commandments." Then, let us go preach the Gospel in heathen lands; let us do that part the Lord has assigned us. We would, in view of these facts, recommend the pastors in this association to act in the capacity of agents in getting up means for this purpose, and thoroughly instruct the people in their duty in regard to this subject. We would recommend the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published in Richmond, Virginia, which may be obtained for fifty cents per year, through which persons may learn of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

B. A. CRAWFORD, Chairman.

After discussing and adapting the above report, a collection was taken for Foreign Missions amounting to $17.

REPORT ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday-schools beg leave to report:

That we have long felt the necessity of establishing and keeping up such schools for the instruction of our youth in religious literature; thus endeavoring to obey the Lord is bringing up our children for His service. Where Sunday-schools have been maintained and efficiently conducted, we have noted that many of our young people have been converted and baptized; some very small boys and girls have united with our churches this summer who have been regular students in Sunday-schools. Only those who enjoy the Sunday-school know its worth. We, therefore, earnestly recommend that every

Christian will assist in organizing and keeping up schools all over our country. We recommend *Kind Words*, published at Macon, Georgia, as Sunday-school literature.

Respectfully submitted,

T. D. BUSH, Chairman.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

Your Committe on Obituaries would beg leave to report:

It is an occasion of devout gratitude on the part of this association that out of a membership of over 1,600 only 15 have died during the year that is now closing, and also that no preacher is included in this number.

We mention the death of Bro. W. W. Daniels, who was a member of Hepzibah church 28 years, served as deacon several years, and lived a consistent Christian.

Also, Bro. J. J. Mikell, from Bethany Church, who for many years was a useful member and a devoted Christian; he has gone to reap the joys that are in store for the faithful.

Sister Martha Harper, a member of Ebenezer Church, is no more; she did rejoicing in faith. Though dead she yet lives in her children.

Sister Lydia Carter, a member of Ebenezer Church, has passed away and is no more.

Also, Sister Amelia Blount, a member of Ebenezer Church, has been taken to her eternal home to reap her reward with the saints in glory.

The others who have died, though no particular mention is made of them, deserve to be held in honorable remembrance for their devotion to the cause of Christ, as much so as if their names were written in the report.

Respectfully submitted,

MOSES STRINGER, Chairman.

REPORT ON CARING FOR THE POOR.

We, your committee to whom was referred the matter of suggesting some plan of caring for the poor, would most respectfully recommend that each church appoint annually, a committee of three or more whose duty it shall be to look

after such poor persons, and when they find that any of their members are in destitute circumstances, report the same to the church at its next regular meeting for their action.

W. L. BOMAN, Chairman.

REPORT ON QUERIES.

The following query having been laid before this body from Friendship Church, to-wit: "What can a church do with a member that has been received by an experience of grace and not baptized and does not come up to the requirements of the church?" We, your committee, would respectfully submit the following: Do nothing with the person, as we do not deem him a member.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS PRICE, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, would beg leave to report the following:

That we have carefully examined the Treasurer's report, and find it amply sustained by vouchers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. THORNHILL,
E. L. REEVES,
Committee.

Whereupon the Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

On motion, Elder B. A. Crawford was granted time to write and assign officially the corrosponding letter to Boguechitto Association.

On motion, it was ordered that the Treasurer *pro tem.* of this association, be now authorized to turn over all funds in his hands for associational and mission purposes, to the Treasurer elect.

On motion, the Treasurer of this association be authorized to turn over all funds now in his hands for mission purposes, to Elder T. J. Walne, Corresponding Secretary of the State Board, and that he be aathorized to turn over the funds for Foreign Missions to Bro. Whitfield, Clinton, Miss.

On motion, a vote was taken relative to the place of holding the next meeting of the association, which resulted in favor of Antioch Church, Marion county, Mississippi.

Resolved, That this association change the day of meeting of this body from Saturday before to Friday before the second Sunday in September, in each year in the future, for the purpose of giving more time for the business of the association; and that Elder J. B. Gambrell, editor of the *Baptist Record*, be requested to publish a notice of this change, through the *Baptist Record*.

Leave of absence was granted to the following brethren: S. C. Dale, A. Sharp and J. D. Burkett.

Resolved, That the Clerk be requested to superintend the printing and distribution of these minutes, and that he be allowed twenty dollars for his services, and that he be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the moneys necessary to defray the expenses.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be, and they are hereby tendered to the members of Cedar Grove Church, and to the friends of this community, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this association.

On motion, the association adjourned to meet with the church, at Antioch, Marion county, Mississippi, seven miles south-west of Columbia, on Friday before the second Sunday in September, A. D. 1883.

A hymn was sung while the parting hand was extended.

Prayer by Elder T. J. Walne; benediction by the Moderator.

R. R. TURNAGE, Moderator.

W. J. ARMSTRONG, Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. M. Fortenberry, Treasurer,
In account with Pearl River Baptist Association.

1882.

Sept. 11.	To balance on hand from 1881....	$ 2 55

CR.

1881.

Sept. 12.	By amount paid W. J. Armstrong	$ 55 00	
"	" " B. A. Crawford..	4 00	
"	" " R. R. Turnage...	4 00	
"	" " J. L. Chandler...	4 00	
"	" " T. D. Bush.....	4 00	
"	" " T. J. Walne.....	23 50	
"	" " T. J. Walne.....	150 25	
"	" " T. J. Walne for Ministerial educ'n	2 00	
	Total.....	$248 75	

DR.

1882.

Sept. 11.	To amount received from churches for associational purposes.....	$ 65 00
"	To amount received for Home Missions.....	102 95
"	To amount received for Foreign Missions.....	45 65
"	To amount received for Ministerial Education.....	1 50
	Total.....	$215 10

J. M. FORTENBERRY, Treasurer.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES FOR 1882.

Churches.	Names of Delegates.		Counties.	Postoffice.	Baptized	Received by letter	Restored	Excluded	Dismissed by Letter	Died	Total	Number of Minutes	Repairing church	Associational Purposes	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Paid Visiting Ministers	Paid the Poor*	Time of Meeting	Sunday-Schools	Ministers Ordained	Pastor's Salary	Ministerial Education	Incidental Expenses	Building church at Monticello
													$	$ 2 30	$	$	$	$	1	1	2	$ 400 00	$ 8 75	$ 16 80	$ 57 00
Antioch	H. Fortenberry, J. Pope, W. A. Graham	Hathorn, W. Polk	Marion	Columbia				1			45	25		8 00	50 80	13 00	27 00		1	3					
Bethany	J. W. Burkett, W. Waller, G. W. Mikell, N. C.		Lawrence	Blountsville	24	8	1	4	1	2	259	60		3 00					1			100 00			
Bethel	A. W. Maxwell, J. J. Thornhill		Lawrence	Monticello	1	2		1	6		53	30		4 00	32 25	7 00									
Crooked Creek	S. C. Dale, Moses Stringer, A. Sharp		Lawrence	Hooker	9	9		2	3	2	105	30		4 00	10 00	1 50			1	1					
Cedar Grove	J. W. Cox, B. H. Martin, I. M. Fortenberry, W.	S. Brakefield	Marion	Columbia	4	13			2	3	84	40	100	4 00	5 00	6 60					1				
Ebenezer	A. S. Harper, Elisha Thompson, W. Clark		Covington	Carley	4	10			6	3	98	30		3 00					4			56 00			
Friendship	B. A. Crawford, Henry Dickerson, Thomas Reeves		Pike	Summit	5	6			2		38	30		3 00	3 75										
Hepzibah	A. E. Jones, H. B. Jones, B. B. Stringer		Lawrence	Oak Vale	1	5	1		10	1	66	25		2 00					1		1				
Holly Springs	W. B. Russell, James Newman, J. Thornhill		Pike	Sartinsville	7		1	2	1		51	15		6 00	2 00				2	1	1				
Little Bahala	Simeon Ross, F. S. Bass		Lincoln	Beauregard	10	4			6	3	175	45		3 55	1 25	1 25									
New Hope	R. R. Turnage, E. J. Pittman, J. M. Turnage		Marion	China Grove	1	6		1			78	25							1						
Providence	No communication		Pike	Monticello					2	1	122	60		6 00	3 15	7 75			4						
Pleasant Hill	W. L. Bowman, J. M. Tyler		Lincoln	Bogue Chitto	26	7	2		2	1	102	35		3 85	2 50										
Magees Creek	J. L. Chandler, Jesse C. Davis, E. L. Reeves		Pike	Sartinsville	1	1		4	2	1	115	40		5 00	7 50	4 50	5 00	7 50	2	1	1	150 00	1 50		57 00
Silver Creek	W. J. Armstrong, J. D. Burkett, T. D. Bush		Lawrence	Monticello	17	5		2	8	1	187	50		5 00											
Society Hill	E. H. Williamson, J. R. Barnes, J. G. Fortinberry, J. W. Thompson		Lawrence	Oak Vale	7	5		1	34		60	25		3 00											
Whitesand	J. E. Williams, N. L. McNease		Covington	Mt. Carmel	1				1	1															
Totals					118	81	5	20	85	15	1 6 8	565		$6 70	*$1 8 2	†$41 60	$32 00	$7 50	5	5		$10 25	$16 80	$114 00	

* Cash collected on Sunday $19 25. † Cash collected on Monday, $17 00

B

BA

64

PEARL RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1883.

SIX

P

C

R. R.
I. M.
W. J.

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Pearl River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Antioch Baptist Church,

Marion County, Mississippi,

Commencing September 7, 1883.

Officers:

R. R. TURNAGE, Oak Vale, Miss.....Moderator
I. M. FMRTENBERRY, Colulbia, Miss .....Treasurer
W. J. ARMSTRONG, Monticello, Miss.....Clerk

CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI:

BAPTIST RECORD PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1883.

Pe

Th
Annual
ty, Mis
Th
Powell,
"I am c
have it
Aft
sung the
by Elde
Th
age, the
in order
Bre
reading
Bre
ed a con
On
order th
letters w
to-wit :
they wer
The
the chur
The
brethren

MINUTES

OF THE

Pearl River Baptist Association.

———o———

The Pearl river Baptist Association met in its Sixty-fourth Annual Session with the Antioch Baptist church, Marion county, Mississippi.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder T. S. Powell, from John, 10th chapter and part of the 10th verse. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

After an intermission, the delegates convened in the house, sung the 372 hymn in Baptist Psalmist, and prayer was offered by Elder J. M. Ritchey.

The Association was called to order by Elder R. R. Turnage, the former Moderator, when he announced the Association in order for business.

Brethren J. N. Welch, and V. T. Dees were appointed reading clerks.

Brethren J. J. Thornhill and E. L. Reeves were appointed a committee on Finance.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended in order that petitionary letters be called for, when petitionary letters were presented from the following named churches, to-wit: Bunker Hill, Leaf River, Salem and Columbia, and they were received as members of this Association.

The letters from the churches were read, and the state of the churches entered on the minutes.

The Association then proceeded to ballot for officers; brethren John Pitman and J. W. Cox acting as tellers. Elder

R. R. Turnage was chosen Moderator, I. M. Fortenberry, Treasurer, and W. J. Armstrong, Clerk.

Visiting ministers present were invited to seats in the Association.

Received correspondence as follows:

From Ebenezer Association—A letter and minutes by her messenger, J. N. Welch.

From Fair River Association—A letter and minute by her messengers, Elders W. H. Bailey and J. M. Ritchey.

Arranged correspondence as follows:

To the Bogue Chitto Association—Brethren J. C. Yawn and Thomas J. Reeves as our messengers, and Bro. John Pitman to write.

To the Fair River Association—Elders R. R. Turnage, T. D. Bush, and Brethren W. C. Dale, W. J. Armstrong and J. D. Burkett as our messengers, and E. L. Reeves to write.

To the Ebenezer Association—Brethren Berry Martin, J. W. Cox and J. N. Welch as our messengers, J. N. Welch to write.

To the Strong River Association—Bro. William Waller as our messenger, and Elder T. D. Bush to write.

To the Magee's Creek Association—Bro. J. D. Burkett to write.

To the Hobolochitto Association—Bro. William Waller to write.

To the West Pearl River Association—Bro. J. W. Tolar as our messenger. Bro. J. B. Dale to write.

To the Baptist State Convention—Elders R. R. Turnage, T. D. Bush, T. S. Powell, and brethren J. W. Cox, J. B. Dale, J. W. Tolar, J. C. Yawn, J. J. Thornhill, W. J. Armstrong, S. D. Burkett, W. C. Dale, J. M. Polk as our messengers.

Committees were appointed as follows:

On Preaching—Brethren J. B. Dale, John Thompson, S. J. Harper, Z. T. Doughdrill, and the deacon of this church.

By request of the Moderator the rules of the Association were read.

On Sunday-schools—Brethren J. N. Welch and Timothy Rogers.

On temperance—Brethren William Waller, J. N. Burkett and N. C. Hathorn.

On State Missions—Elder T. S. Powell, and brethren J. D. Burkett and G. W. Johnson.

On Foreign Missions—Elder T. D. Bush, and brethren V. T. Dees and W. C. Dale.

On Obituaries—Brethren W. V. Jones, Z. T. Doughdrill and T. J. Reeves.

On Religious Literature—Brethren J. W. Cox, J. C. Yawn and Moses Stringer.

On Ministerial Education—Brethren J. J. Thornhill and W. J. Stovall.

On Mississippi College—Brethren E. J. Pitman, J. W. Tolar, W. Clark, and Elder W. H. Bailey.

On General Education—Elder J. M. Ritchey, Berry Martin and John Fortenberry.

On the best plan of Rai ing Pastor's Salary—Brethren S. J. Harper, J. F. Greere and J. M. Polk.

On Home Missions—Elder T. D. Bush, and brethren J. M. Turnage and N. M. Rogers.

On motion, the above named committees were approved by this Association.

The committee on Preaching made the following partial report:

That Elder W. H. Bailey preach at 11 o'clock a. m., on to-morrow; one hour's intermission, then Elder J. M. Ritchey to preach and close in the afternoon.

The report was receivrd and adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet on to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

Hymn 343 in Boptist Psalmist was sung.

Prayer by Elder T. D. Bush.

Benediction by the Moderator.

Full work

SECOND DAY,

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The Association met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder J. L. Chandler.

The Moderator announced the Association in order for business.

Correspondence was received from the West Pearl River Association—A letter by her messenger, Bro. J. E. Bilbo.

Corresponding letters were read and adopted.

A petitionary letter was received from the Williamsburg church, and on motion she was received as a member of this Association.

On motion, a vote was taken relative to the place of holding the next meeting of this Association which resulted in favor of Hepzibah church, eleven miles southeast of Monticello in Lawrence county, Mississippi.

Correspondence was received from the Magees Creek Association with a letter and package of minutes by her messengers Elder W. J. Fortenbury and J. E Davis.

Reports of committees were read, received, discussed and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report:

That they recognize the great importance of entering the open doors of foreign lands. When the Lord opened a door at Ephesus, Paul determined to enter and preach the Gospel; notwithstanding the idolatrous city was full of adversaries. The Lord has opened the doors of both pagan and priest ridden countries and bids us enter at once with the pure Gospel, that the people of those countries may hear, believe and be saved. We realize that opportunity imposes obligation. Therefore,

Resolved, 1st, That we cordially endorse the movement of the Foreign Mission Board in asking Mississippi to raise during the year for Foreign Missions $8,000.

2nd. That we pledge ourselves to try to raise our pro rata

share of said amount, and that we will do what we can to enlist every member of our churches in this Christly work.

3rd, We earnestly beg the pastors of our churches to laber as never before to get their respective flocks to feel the great obligation that is resting upon them. Finally dear brethren, let us all work for, pray for, and give to Foreign Missions in as much as our labor of love will not be in vain in the Lord. Elder Geo. Whitfield of Clinton, Miss., is State Secretary for Foreign Missions to whom we should send all monies for that work.

Respectfully submitted,

T. D. BUSH,
W. C. DALE,
V. T. DEES.
Committee.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee on State Missions would beg leave to report the following:

We are chiefly interested in the condition of our own State, and the people of our State being more closely allied to them than those of other States and countries. The work of the State Board is strictly home work. For what we do in this report we will have all the praise, for what we fail to do we shall be justly censured. The State Board was organized about ten years ago. During the first year of its existence only one church in the State contributed to missions. Since then the mission spirit seems to be growing in our people, and confidence in the Board, and co-operation with it is constantly becoming stronger. Last year there were thirty-two missionaries employed. and the Board was enabled to close the year without financial embarrassment. We have much reason to be encouraged with our success in the past, but our work is not done. The demands for missionary labor is even greater than it has ever been, and the Board is anxious to enlarge its work in the river counties where there is great destitution. We have only one missionary, Bro. L. Ball, in that destitution. The work there demands speedy re-inforcements. The prospects of the New Orleans mission are more encouraging than ever before. But only a beginnig has been made. The work demands constant support and enlargement. The Coast Mis-

sion still needs the assistance of the Board. There are many other places comparatively destitute where missionary labor is needed among which we may mention our own Association; we should by all means receive the labors of a missionary for next year. There is one feature of the work of the Board which we would especially call attention as worthy of commendation; that of assisting weak and struggling churches, who are not able to sustain a pastor for themselves. In conclusion we would recommend that every church endeavor, by some plan, to obtain a contribution from all her members for the work of this Board. We would reccommend that ladies' and childrens' missionary societies be organized in every church, that all our people may be enlisted in the most glorious enterprise this world has ever known.

Respectfully submitted,

T. S. POWELL, Chairman

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The committee on Home Missions beg leave to report:

That the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is located at Atlanta, Georgia. It has before it a broad and inviting field of labor. It has under its care an important mission among the Chinese in California, the Indians in the Western Territories, the colored people of the South and among many of the white people of our Southern States. Its consecrated missionaries may be found in San Francisco, Cal., the Western territories, among the Creek Indians, in Texas. Louisiana, New Orleans, Memphis and Florida.

Our missionaries under the Home Mission Board are cultivated, devoted, and consecrated men and women. They are occupying centers of influence where eternity alone will tell of the good accomplished. Their cry is "Come over and help us." The Home Board has asked us, the Baptist of Mississippi, for $5,000, brethren shall we give it? Sixty thousand Baptists are asked for only $5,000 for this great work. Let every baptized disciple respond. Yes! Yes!! Yes!!!

Contributions to Home Missions may be sent to Elder H. F. Sproles, Jackson, Miss., who is State Secretary for the Home Board or directly to Dr. I. T. Tichenor Atlanta, Ga.

Respectfully submitted,

T. D. BUSH, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committed on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report:

Temperance means the moderate use of things needful, and abstinence from things which are not needful. We pronounce the use of ardent spirits as one of the things which is not needful. It is the matchless evil of to-day. Among our people it is blighting our land, corrupting our youth, and retarding our prosperity. This evil is organized, persistent and determined. It is an evil hoary with age, sustained by wealth, favored by prejudice and confirmed by habit. This evil confronts us in all our work. We must meet it. The crisis is upon us. We can not evade it unless we desert our work and prove recreant to our trust. As Christians, as citizens and as Baptists, we are called upon to grapple with the monster of iniquity or it will consummate the ruin of our county. There can be no half way position, no compromise in this matter. We must take decided ground; the ground of total abstainance, and maintain it if we expect to succeed in our opposition to it. Your committee, therefore, recommend 1st, that it is the sense of this Association that the use of spirituous drink as a beverage on the part of Christians is contrary to the spirit and genuis of the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the habit of frequenting bar-rooms and other places where these drinks are drank and sold, is derogatory to the Christian character, and tends greatly to lessen Christian's influence for good. 2nd. That we would most earnestly recommend to all of the pastors within our bounds to speak and preach often against these great evils, and to exert their utmost influence to induce their churches to exercise the most strict and rigid discipline in the cases of brethren guilty of this obnoxious practice.

Respectfully submitted,
WM. WALLER, Chairman.

---o---

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We your committee on Religious Literature beg leave to report:

That in our estimation nothing is so potent, apart from the Bible and the preaching of the word of God, in raising the

standard of a pure and progressive Christianity as the religious press. The Christian who does not appreciate this, fails to appreciate the spirit of the age in Christian thought and activity. It is gratifying to note an increasing interest among our people in this department of Christian usefulness. A reading people will be a thinking people, and a thinking people is soon to become a great people. We would therefore recommend to all Sunday-schools "Kind Words" our excellent Sunday-school paper, and to all our churches the Foreign Mission Journal and especially would we urge all our people to take and read the Baptist Record; by so doing they will help the Record and the Record will help them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. COX, Chairman.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We your committee on Ministerial Education beg leave to report:

That this is a subject among those of the greatest importance to us as Baptists. A subject, too that we feel to be greatly neglected in our denominational interest. We think it of vast importance to us to step forward and unite our efforts in this great and important cause of educating our young ministers. As it depends on them in the future to disperse the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ. And we reccommend for that purpose the Mississippi College as the best and most efficient place for the accomplishment of this great end.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. THORNHILL,
W. J. STOVALL,
Committee.

REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath-schools beg leave to submit the following report:

In our judgement the Sabbath-school is of great importance. "Train up a child in the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart from it." That is what the wise

man, Solomon said on the subject. The Sunday-school affords us a grand opportunity to train our children for Christ. And if they are trained for Christ we need have no fears but what they will be useful men and women in after life. And if this be so it necessarily imposes on us as Christians the obligations of availing ourselves of these grand opportunities of working for our Master. Again we should engage in this work because it will the better prepare us all to more wholly consecrate ourselves to the service of God.

A prominent pastor lately made this remark that the lessons of the last quarter in studying the Acts of the Apostles had helped to develop his churches on the subject of missions so much so that he could see the effect. We would not have the Sunday-school to take the place of parental training, but that it should follow the lessons of the mother in leading the young mind to Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. WELCH,
TIM ROGERS,
Committee.

———o———

REPORT ON THE BEST PLAN OF RAISING PASTOR'S SALARY.

We your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

Feeling that it is the duty of each member of the church to help bear each others burdens, and not only a duty but a positive command from our Savior, and realizing also that the pastor's salary is one of the burdens, we deem it very necessary that each member, male and female, help to bear this burden, while at the same time we are aware that this subject does not receive as much of our attention as the case requires. Therefore we recommend the following: Let the church furnish the deacons with a list of the names of all the members of the various churches, and let them, the deacons, see each member and in the spirit of Christ present the matter and receive his or her contribution; but if any one should refuse to assist in this matter labor with them in the spirit of Christ, and then if such an one still refuses to help in this matter then let them, the deacons, report the same, the church being a sovereign of her own let her dispose of the matter in decency and in order, for the advancement of the cause and for the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. POLK, Chairman.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your commirtee on Obituaries would submit the following report:

That since our last meeting Bethany has lost two members, Bethel one, Ebenezer two, Friendship one, Providence four, Society Hill one, Salem three, Leaf River one. Total fifteen.

Resolved, That while we mourn their loss we would humbly submit to the providence of God.

Resolved, That we tender the prayers and sympathy of this Association to the bereaved.

Respectfully submitted,

W. V. JONES, Chairman.

REPORT ON GENERAL EDUCATION.

We, your committee, would submit the following report:

Our State, with its present population has a sufficient number of colleges, but there is great need of improvement in our common school system. There should be in every thickly settled section, a thorough, first-class common school, in which boys and girls can secure a practical education. As it is, we have to send our sons and daughters to some college to secure even a practical business education. This is too expensive for a majority of our people. To secure such schools we need competent teachers; men and women who will give themselves wholly to their work. We need to have longer sessions than are usually taught in our common schools. A more thorough course of study. Christian education is one of the characteristics of this age; and in securing teachers for our common schools, we should not overlook their moral qualifications.

Your committee would recommend the foliowing colleges as worthy the patrónage of our people. Lea Female College, at Summit; Blue Mountain Female College, at Ripley; Central Female Institute, and Mississippi College, at Clinton.

Respectfuily submitted,

J. M. RITCHEY, Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

Your committee would submit the following:

We are glad to be able to report that the last session of the College was the most prosperous ever enjoyed. Two hundred and forty-four students were enrolled; thirty-seven of that number were young men just entering into the ministry. This is most encouraging when we consider the exceeding stringency of the times in money matters, and it is proof that not only education, but Christian education is taking a deeper hold on the hearts of the people. There is an educational revival in the country. The people are coming to see that the best heritage they can leave their children is a good education. Young men are finding out the advantages of culture, and are ready to make any sacrifice to prepare themselves for life-work; many are educating themselves. We hail this spirit with gladness, but we need not only education but Christian education. Education is power, but without the sanctifying influence of religion it may be put to a bad use. Christians must cultivate the higher education of the land. We cannot afford as Christians and Baptists to allow others to train the rising generation. We ourselves must put our hand to the work and educate for Christ. We believe Mississippi is just entering upon an era of great prosperity and usefulnes; it never was so fully prepared to do a grand work. The Faculty has been enlarged and strengthened, and improvements are seen on all sides, in accordance with the recommendations of the Convention at its last session. Elder Z. T. Leavell was still retained as financial secretary of the College. He will labor in the general interest of education throughout the State, and at the same time collect what is due the College, and in general, look after the financial interest of the Institution. We bid him God speed in his great work. In conclusion, let us say, Mississippi Baptists have a college for which they should be profoundly grateful, it was founded in prayer and has been nurtured by the consecrated efforts of pious men. It is now a fountain of blessing. It can easily, by the united efforts of the Baptists of Mississippi, be made an unspeakable blessing to our churches and the world. Let us remember that it is the College of the Baptists of Mississippi. We should give it our sons to educate for their good and for the furtherance of the gospel. We should give it our prayers that God will lay his hand upon it and use it for his

glory. We should give it our money, too, for a College can not be carried on without money, and God will return to us all and much more.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. BAILEY, Chairman.

Resolutions were offered as follows:

Resolved, That the State Board be requested to appoint a missionary to work within the bounds of this Association during the next Associational year.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to correspond with the State Board in securing a missionary in the bounds of this Association, whereupon brethren T. S. Powell, J. N. Welch and W. J. Armstrong were appointed as said committee.

J. Christian appt

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We your committee on Finance would beg leave to report the following:

That we have examined the Treasurer's report, and find it correct and amply sustained by vouchers, except one receipt not signed by Elder B. A. Crawford.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. THORNHILL,
E. L. REEVES,
Committee.

Whereupon the Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

Resolved, That the funds of this Association that is used to defray the expenses of her messengers be pro-rated in proportion to number of miles traveled in going to and returning from bodies with whom we correspond. Said messengers shall present a true report of number of miles traveled, whereupon the Treasurer shall disburse said monies as provided.

The committee on preaching made the following final report:

That Elder T. D. Bush preach at 11 o'clock on to-mo rrow one hour's intermission, when Elder W. J. Fortenbery to preach and close. And that Elder T. D. Bush preach the next introductory sermon and Elder R. R. Turnage his alternate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be requested to superintend the printing and distribution of these minutes and that he be allowed twenty-five dollars for his services, and that he be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the monies necessary to defray the expenses.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby tendered the church and citizens of this community for their generous hospitality in entertaining this Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with the church at Hepzibah, Lawrence county, eleven miles southeast of Monticello, on Friday before the 2d Lord's day in September, A. D. 1884.

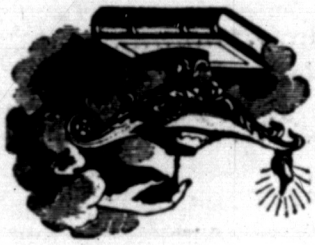
A hymn was sung.

Elder T. D. Bush led in the closing prayer.

Benediction by the Moderator.

R. R. TURNAGE, Moderator.

W. J. ARMSTRONG, Clerk.



TREASURER'S REPORT.

September, 1883.

I. M. Fortenberry, Treasurer,

In account with the Pearl River Baptist Association.

To amount received last year.....		$215 10

CREDITS.

By am't pd W. J. Armstrong, Clerk.....	$ 56 70	
" " " B. A. Crawford, messenger.....	3 00	
" " " R. R. Turnage, "	3 00	
" " " S. L. Chandler, "	3 00	
" " " T. J. Walne, Sec. State Board....	102 95	
" " " " " " " " "	46 65	
" " " " " " " " "	1 50	
" " over paid.....	1 70	
	$216 80	
To balance cash on hand.....		85
" am't rec'd from churches this year for Associational purposes.....		$ 78 95
To am't rec'd for Foreign Missions.....		12 20
" " " " State "		6 70
Balance cash on hand.....		$ 98 70

Respectfully submitted,

I. M. FORTENBERRY, Treasurer.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Names of Delegates.	Counties.	Post Offices.	Baptized	Received by letter	Restored	Excluded	Died	Total	No. of minutes	Associat'nal purposes	Pastor's salary	Incidental expenses	Ministerial Education	State Missions	Foreign Missions	Mississippi College	Paid the poor	Paid by Ladies' Missionary Society for State Missions	Paid by Ladies' Missionary Society for Foreign Missions	Paid visiting ministers	Time of meeting	Sunday-schools	Superannuated ministers	Church building	Ordained ministers	Transcribing Church Record	Transcribing Record Book
Antioch	J J Turnage, J T Sumrall, W Gill	Marion	Columbia	1					43	25	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$			$	$	1	$	$
Bethany	T Howell, G W Mikell, W aller, J N. Burkett, N C Hathorn	Lawrence	Blountville	23	1	2	8	2	242	70	8 00	316 00	12 00	11 00	107 35	31 00	9 50	50 00	14 00	23 00	56 50		4					
Bethel	J J Thornhill	Lawrence	Monticello	7	3		1	1	62	40	4 00												2					
Bunker Hill	J W Cox, Jno Thompson, Abner Polk	Marion	Larley	10	6				35	30	3 00	150 00		12 15	8 05	2 10	5 15						2		395 00			
Cedar Grove	Berry Martin, I M Strawberry, J B Dale	Marion	Columbia	1	2		3		81	2	2 50	100 00			16 95	1 75	3 00						3					
Columbia	C Mobley, John Pitman, S H Dale	Marion	Columbia							10	1 00																	
Crooked Creek	W C Dale, G W Johnston, J Stringer	Lawrence	Hooker	7	17	2	8	2	112	35	3 50	150 00			34 85			13 80			5 10	1	1	5 00				
Ebenezer	S J Harper, W Clark	Marion	Larley	7	5	1	1	9	99	30	4 00	93 25		13 80	10 25	10 50	3 75						1					
Friendship	J C Yawn, Thos J eeves	Pike	Summit		2			6	34	25	2 50												1					
Hepzibah	W J Carter, J M Polk	Lawrence	Oak Vale	2	3			5	65	20	2 50	75 00				1 00						4	1					
Holly Spring	J M Newman, A B Russel	Pike	Martinsville	6	1	1	2		42	25	3 10											3			200 00			
Leaf River	Timothy Rogers, J N Veleh	Covington	Station Creek	13	2			3	81	40	5 00	150 00		1 75	25 00	28 25	4 25									1	30 00	3 75
Magee's Creek	W Stovall, W V Jones, E L Reeves	Pike	Martinsville	7				2	76	25	2 50											2			62 00			
New Hope	R R Turnage, E J Pitman, J M Turnage	Pike	China Grove	4	2		5	5	78	20	3 00					3 45						2	1			1		
Pleasant Hill	F Greer, J F Greer	Pike	Bogue Chitto	2	11		3	17	118	50	5 00					3 80							1					
Providence	D L Howell, John Day	Pike	Summit	33	5	3	1	4	154	60																		
Silver Creek	T D Bush, D Burkett, W J rmstrong	Lawrence		6	7			8	121	40	5 00	150 00		1 25	37 35	1 00	4 00					3	3		38 50	1		
Society Hill	J W Tolar, G D Robertson, P Nelson, J G Fort nberry, Z Dougbdrill	Lawrence	Oak Vale	39	45	12	10	9	231	65	6 40				3 70	7 40						4	3					
Salem	V T Dees, N Rogers	Covington	Williamsburg	12	3	1	2	10	106	40	5 00	48 00			11 25	1 00					9 60		1					
White Sand	W A Lee, N L cNease	Covington	Mt. Carmel	5	2		2	2	61																			
Williamsburg	J R Webster	Covington	Williamsburg		8			2	23	10	1 50	50 00			5 00													
			Totals	95	105	22	45	102	17	1854	675	$67 50		$12 00	$39 95	$259 75	$91 25	$29 65	$63 80	$14 00	$23 00	$71 20		17	$5 00	$695 50	4	$30 00	$3 7

Bap

P

R.
J.
W